

The Response team for the Presbyterian Church of Needham recommends that the Presbytery form an Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian Church in Needham with the following charge:

Charge for Needham AC

Background:

On July 18, 2019, the session of the Presbyterian Church in Needham located at 1458 Great Plain Ave. in Needham, MA, requested that the Presbytery form a response team to help discern whether the congregation should be dissolved. In accordance with Standing Rule E.16 the Presbytery formed a response team to help with this discernment process. On October 27, the congregation voted to concur with the request for an Administrative Commission to help with dissolving the congregation.

This purpose of the Administrative Commission is to dissolve the Presbyterian Church in Needham. This Commission will consist of 3-5 members to be appointed by the moderator in consultation with the Resource Presbyter and Stated Clerk. The Commission will elect its own chair and receive its staff support from the Presbytery Stated Clerk. The Commission shall have the following charge and limitations:

1. Discern and recommend future use of the building located at 1458 Great Plain Ave. in Needham, MA. All references to “building” below are references to the building at this address.
2. In consultation with the session of the Presbyterian Church in Needham, recommend to the Presbytery the effective date for the dissolution of the Presbyterian Church in Needham.
3. Determine the ongoing expenses of the building such as the cost of the facilities manager, insurance, utilities, maintenance, debt services, etc.
4. Review all ongoing rental relationships, contracts, and income from rentals.
5. Once income and expenses coordinate with the Presbytery trustees to discuss possibilities for the building after the congregation is dissolved.
6. Review any assets that the congregation owns.
7. Discern and recommend how to dispose of contents within the building including special care given to sacred objects.
8. In consultation with the Presbytery trustees, clear the title and deed so that the Presbytery may, if it chooses, freely sell the building and property.
9. Consult with at least 2 commercial real estate agents on the value of the building in the current market and the cost of the agents’ services. Any real estate agent or broker hired to sell the property, if a sale is discerned as the appropriate action, shall not be a member of a PC(USA) congregation.
10. Consult with session and COM on any severance agreements.
11. The Commission has the authority to assume original jurisdiction.
12. The Commission does not have the authority to dissolve the congregation. That authority is reserved for the Presbytery.

13. The Commission does not have the authority to sell the property until authorized by the Presbytery to do so.
14. The commission will plan with the congregation a final worship service to which members of the Presbytery of Boston and its congregations will be invited.

Additional Motions:

1. Approve an exception to the term limits to allow current session members to serve until the date of dissolution.
2. Suspend the standing rules in order to allow members of the Response Team serve on the Administrative Commission.